

Message Text

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43

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

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P R 071235Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6030

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6428

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB BM

SUBJECT: KHIEU SAMPHAN

REF: RANGOON 1186

1. ASSUME DEPARTMENT AS ACTION ADDRESSEE WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTTEL.

2. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH EMBASSY RANGOON THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN MAY BE TRYING TO GET HIS FOOD IN THE BURMESE DOOR. IN COURSE OF BRIEFING FOREIGN MINISTRY, EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO BRING UP, AT ITS DISCRETION GIVEN GURMESE SENSIBILITIES, THE FACT THAT THE GOB RECOGNIZED THE GKR, DESPITE THE TEMPRORY EVACUTATION FOR SECURITY REASONS IN EARLY MARCH OF BURMESE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN PHNOM PENH. (A GENTLE REMINDER THATTHE SECURITY SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH AS MUCH IMPROVED AND THAT VIRUTALLY ALL FOREIGN EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO LEFT IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH HAVE NOW RETURNED WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.) ACCORDINGLY, IT WOULD BE IN-APPROPRIATE FOR THE GRUNK DELEGATION TO VISIT RANGOON, AND EVEN ITS TRANSITTING WOULD BE QUESTIONABLE.

3. THE GKR IS THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. DESPITE ITS CURRENT INITIATIVE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, GRUNK REMAINS A FACADE. IT HAS NO CAPITAL, IT IS DEPENDENT FOR ITS EXISTENCE UPON THE GOODWILL OF PEKING AND HANOI, AND ITS TITULAR LEADER, SIHANOUK, CONFIDENTIAL

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HAS OPENLY ADMITTED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT

KHIEU SAMPHAN AND THE "IN-COUNTRY" MOVEMENT HAVE NO
USE FOR HIM AND WILL DISPOSE OF HIM WHEN THEY
CONSIDER THAT HE IS NO LONGER NEEDED.

4. IT IS THE VIEW OF A NUMBER OF PROMINENT CAMBODIANS
WHO KNEW KHIEU SAMPHAN THAT THE DISPUTE OVER HIS
"PHANTOM" STATUS HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED ON WAY OR
THE OTHER. WHILE WE ACCEPT THE FACT THAT RECENT
PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE IS NOT CONCLUSIVE, WE FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE KHMER COMMUNISTS WOULD
RISK SENDING ABROAD AN INDIVIDUAL PORPORTING TO BE
KHIEU SAMPHAN WHO IS NOT THE REAL ARTICLE,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE WIDE PUBLIC EXPOSURE THAT
HE IS RECEIVING.
DEAN

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